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PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff BARTELL HOTELS, a California Limited Partnership, dba HALF MOON ANCHORAGE ("PLAINTIFF"), is a California Limited Liability Partnership, duly organized and existing by virtue of law. It maintains a leasehold interest in that certain 180slip marina known as "Half Moon Anchorage," located at 2303 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, California (hereinafter the "Marina").
- The DEFENDANT VESSEL, is a 40-foot 1968 Owens motor yacht. She is of 3. wood Accordingly, as a consequence of the foregoing, as of October 31, 2007 PLAINTIFF has been damaged in a sum of not less than \$4,389.00, the total of the arrearages on the date of termination of the wharfage contract (\$1,929.60), plus \$2,460.00 (\$60.00 per day in transient wharfage fees beginning September 21, 2007 to October 31, 2007 (41 days), calculated at the Marina's usual rate of \$1.50 per foot per day), plus prejudgment interest, plus custodia legis expenses and all other costs of suit, no part of which has been paid. en construction and believed to be in poor and unseaworthy condition, having not been maintained literally for years. On one occasion the former marina owner's employees were forced to dewater the DEFENDANT VESSEL, to prevent her from sinking. She is now or formerly was registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles under CF No. CF 8646 ED. She is now within the waters of the Southern District of California and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court. The DEFENDANT VESSEL is neither now, nor has she at any relevant time been, equipped with a permanent continuous hookup to a shoreside sewage system, and therefore as a statutory matter she is not and cannot be a "floating home" within the meaning of the California Floating Home Residency Law (Cal. Civil Code section 800.4). The wharfage contract pursuant to which the DEFENDANT VESSEL has occupied space at the Marina is hence an ordinary commercial contract which is freely terminable. Derfus v. Far West Villa Del Mar, Ltd., 471 F. Supp. 1082 (C.D.C.A. 1979) (so recognizing, rejecting argument boat owner is entitled to notice of good cause for termination and opportunity for impartial hearing, and holding "[t]he right to dock one's boat at a particular berth or marina cannot be equated with the right to decent low-cost housing even if one

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR VESSEL ARREST, INTERLOCUTORY SALE AND FOR MONEY DAMAGES FOR TRESPASS, BREACH OF, CONTRACT FOR NECESSARIES AND QUANTUM MERUIT,

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FIRST COUNT

(Trespass – Against Defendant Vessel)

- 4. PLAINTIFF refers to Paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Verified Complaint and incorporates them as though fully set forth herein.
- 5. PLAINTIFF purchased Half Moon Anchorage (hereinafter the "Marina") in January, 2007. At that time the DEFENDANT VESSEL had already been there for years, apparently since at least 2001. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, since March, 2001, the account for the DEFENDANT VESSEL has been arrears on at least 15 occasions, and that on at least two occasions, most recently in June, 2007, checks her owner tendered were returned for want of sufficient funds.
- PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the owner of the DEFENDANT VESSEL and the previous owner of the Marina entered into a written contract (hereinafter the "Wharfage Contract"), pursuant to which the Marina owner was required to provide wharfage services, and the DEFENDANT VESSEL's owner was required to timely tender monthly payments for such services.
- 7. PLAINTIFF is however informed and believes that the Wharfage Contract, as is manifestly typical in Southern California, provided for its free termination upon the provision by either party of 30 days' or more advance notice of such termination.
- PLAINTIFF is informed and believes that the owner of the DEFENDANT VESSEL, Mr. Kurt Hach, has alleged that the DEFENDANT VESSEL sustained damage as a result of misconduct engaged in by a Marina Manager that worked for the *former* owner of the Marina, before she was terminated. Notwithstanding the claimed damage occurred several years ago, long before PLAINTIFF owned the Marina, Mr. Hach recently inexplicably demanded "50,000 to \$70,000" from PLAINTIFF in compensation for such claimed damage. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes and thereon alleges the claimed damage occurred several years ago, that any potential statute of limitation regarding such claims has expired, and such claims would also be barred by the equitable doctrine of laches.

- 9. After it purchased Half Moon Anchorage, in order to control risk and liability and for other business reasons, PLAINTIFF carefully reviewed the existing circumstances and procedures at the Marina and decided to make certain improvements and changes. This included examining the vessels at the Marina in order to generally evaluate their condition, verifying that all vessels located at the Marina were insured, and preparing a new wharfage contract for review and execution vessel owners.
- 10. It appeared, upon PLAINTIFF's examination, that the 40 year old DEFENDANT VESSEL was (as she still is) in poor condition, exhibiting evidence of dry rot, years of growth on her bottom, blistering and peeling paint, with debris scattered aboard.
- 11. PLAINTIFF requested that all vessel owners for whom PLAINTIFF did not have current evidence of vessel insurance, to provide such evidence. PLAINTIFF also requested that vessel owners review and execute a new wharfage contract. Although a few boat owners failed to provide the requested proof of insurance or declined to execute the new wharfage contract and moved their vessels to other locations, the vast majority of boat owners complied with these requests, did not exercise their right to terminate their wharfage contracts, and they remain today at the Marina as tenants in good standing. PLAINTIFF also dispatched a letter to all vessel owners, including Mr. Hach, notifying them they were free to pick up a new Marina gate access card at the Marina Office. Although he claims to have attempted to do so, once at 7:00 a.m. and again at 7:00 p.m., he has not during working hours requested a new access card, as requested, at the Marina Office.
- 12. The owner of the DEFENDANT VESSEL (Mr. Hach), however, failed and refused both to provide evidence of insurance and to execute and return the new wharfage contract. Instead, he has refused to provide evidence of insurance and to execute a new wharfage contract, apparently based on the notion that PLAINTIFF is somehow responsible for physical damage to his vessel, notwithstanding that such damages (if any) occurred literally *years before PLAINTIFF owned the Marina*.
- 13. As a consequence of the poor condition of the DEFENDANT VESSEL, her continuing lack of any maintenance whatever and her owner's refusal to both provide proof

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR VESSEL ARREST, INTERLOCUTORY SALE AND FOR MONEY DAMAGES FOR TRESPASS, BREACH OF, CONTRACT FOR NECESSARIES AND QUANTUM MERUIT,

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of insurance and to execute a new wharfage contract, PLAINTIFF became compelled to
terminate the wharfage contract for the DEFENDANT VESSEL. Accordingly, on August 17
2007 PLAINTIFF's counsel dispatched via Certified U.S. Mail a letter to Mr. Hach in which
he was advised of the termination of his wharfage contract, effective 34 days from the date o
the letter - on September 20, 2007. A true and correct copy is attached as Exhibit A to the
Declaration of Philip E. Weiss in Support of Vessel Arrest, filed concurrently herewith. This
letter also explained the legal fiction indulged in admiralty that a vessel is a (juridical)
person, and hence if the DEFENDANT VESSEL was not removed by the specified date she
would become a trespasser and could be held accountable by way of a vessel arrest and
subsequent interlocutory vessel sale. This letter also reminded Mr. Hach that any allegations
he advanced concerning claimed damage to his vessel and financial and other misconduct by
a marina manager employed by a former owner are not properly addressed by PLAINTIFF,
the current owner of the Marina.

- 14. On the date specified for termination of the wharfage contract (August 20, 2007) PLAINTIFF's counsel contacted Mr. Hach, the owner of the DEFENDANT VESSEL, to inquire as to why she had not been removed from the Marina and in order to ascertain his intentions vis-a-vis removing her from the Marina. Mr. Hach did not agree to remove the DEFENDANT VESSEL.' To the contrary, he insisted that if PLAINTIFF did not pay him \$50,000 to \$70,000, he would sue PLAINTIFF for \$1.2 million. He also indicated that he believed that he would be unable to obtain another slip for his vessel, even if improved, "because Homeland Security will not permit him to move."
- Since September 21, 2007 the DEFENDANT VESSEL has occupied a slip at 15. PLAINTIFF's private marina without permission, authority or legal justification.
- 16. The DEFENDANT VESSEL, by and through her apparent and ostensible owner has intruded onto and continue to intrude onto PLAINTIFF's premises, thereby invading and interfering with PLAINTIFF's interest in the use, profits and enjoyment of its waterfront business.

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The DEFENDANT VESSEL has not vacated PLAINTIFF's Marina, despite 17. repeated demands, and she continues to occupy a slip at PLAINTIFF's Marina, without permission or authority of the PLAINTIFF, and in derogation of PLAINTIFF's interests in its real property.

18. Accordingly, as a consequence of the foregoing, as of October 31, 2007 PLAINTIFF has been damaged in a sum of not less than \$4,389.00, the total of the arrearages on the date of termination of the wharfage contract (\$1,929.60), plus \$2,460.00 (\$60.00 per day in transient wharfage fees beginning September 21, 2007 to October 31, 2007 (41 days), calculated at the Marina's usual rate of \$1.50 per foot per day), plus prejudgment interest, plus custodia legis expenses and all other costs of suit, no part of which has been paid.

SECOND COUNT

(Breach of Maritime Contract for Necessaries – Against All Defendants)

- 19. PLAINTIFF refers to Paragraphs 1 through 3 and 5 through 18 inclusive of this. Complaint, and incorporates them as though fully set forth herein.
- 20. Whether pursuant to a written wharfage contract or an implied contract, the DEFENDANT VESSEL had an obligation, by and through her owner, to tender monthly wharfage payments, when due, for the provision of wharfage services. Such services constitute "necessaries" for purposes of the Commercial Instruments and Federal Maritime Lien Act (46 U.S.C. sections 31301, et seq.).
- PLAINTIFF competently provided these services for the benefit of the 21. DEFENDANT VESSEL, and continues to do so, notwithstanding her current status as a trespasser.
- 22. Whether written or implied, the wharfage contract between PLAINTIFF and the DEFENDANT VESSEL (and her owner) is freely terminable by either party upon providing the other with at least 30 days (the frequency of payment) advance notice.
- PLAINTIFF's counsel provided 34 days' advance notice of the termination of the wharfage contract in his letter to the owner of the DEFENDANT VESSEL, which is dated August 17, 2007.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR VESSEL ARREST, INTERLOCUTORY SALE AND FOR MONEY DAMAGES FOR TRESPASS, BREACH OF, CONTRACT FOR NECESSARIES AND QUANTUM MERUIT,

Case No

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- 24. The DEFENDANT VESSEL, by and through her owner, failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to vacate the Marina following termination of her wharfage contract, and she thereby is in active breach of said contract.
- 25. Accordingly, as a consequence of the foregoing, as of October 31, 2007 PLAINTIFF has been damaged in a sum of not less than \$4,389.00, the total of the arrearages on the date of termination of the wharfage contract (\$1,929.60), plus \$2,460.00 (\$60.00 per day in transient wharfage fees beginning September 21, 2007 to October 31, 2007 (41 days), calculated at the Marina's usual rate of \$1.50 per foot per day), plus prejudgment interest, plus *custodia legis* expenses and all other costs of suit, no part of which has been paid.

THIRD COUNT

(Quantum Meruit - Against Defendant Vessel)

- 26. PLAINTIFF refers to Paragraphs 1 through 3 and 5 through 18, and 20 through 25 inclusive of this Complaint, and incorporates them as though fully set forth herein.
- 27. PLAINTIFF provided valuable wharfage and other useful maritime necessaries to the DEFENDANT VESSEL, for her benefit.
- 28. Wharfage and other maritime necessaries were accepted by the DEFENDANT VESSEL and her owner, and enjoyed by them.
- 29. PLAINTIFF had and has a rightful expectation of payment for these maritime services, but not been paid for them.
- 30. Under the circumstances presented, not requiring payment for these services would result in the unjust enrichment by the DEFENDANT VESSEL and her owner.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays for process in due form of law and in accordance with the practices of this Honorable Court in cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction to be issued herein; that the DEFENDANT VESSEL be required to answer all and singular, the matters alleged above; that judgment be entered against the DEFENDANT VESSEL, *in rem*, for PLAINTIFF's damages in a sum according to proof, plus prejudgment interest, plus costs of suit (including attorneys' fees); that all persons interested in the DEFENDANT VESSEL, her engines, tackle, apparel, furniture and appurtenances, be cited

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR VESSEL ARREST, INTERLOCUTORY SALE AND FOR MONEY DAMAGES FOR TRESPASS, BREACH OF, CONTRACT FOR NECESSARIES AND QUANTUM MERUIT,

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to answer this Verified Complaint; that DEFENDANT VESSEL be seized pursuant to the Warrant of Arrest and condemned and sold to pay any judgment in favor of PLAINTIFF; and that it be awarded such other and further relief as this Honorable Court may deem just and proper.

October **3**, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

WEISS & JONES

Philip E. Weiss, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiff

Bartell Hotels, a California Limited Partnership, dba Half Moon Anchorage

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR VESSEL ARREST, INTERLOCUTORY SALE AND FOR MONEY DAMAGES FOR TRESPASS, BREACH OF, CONTRACT FOR NECESSARIES AND QUANTUM MERUIT,

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VERIFICATION

I, RICHARD BARTELL, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California as follows:

- 1. I, the undersigned, am a General Partner of the Plaintiff in this action.
- 2. I certify I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint and know its contents.
- 3. The matters stated in the Verified Complaint are true of my own knowledge and belief except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Executed this 3/ day of October, 2007 at San Diego, California.

Richard Bartell

Document 1

Filed 11/01/2007

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Case 3:07-cv-02097-L-BLM

1	 Verified Complaint For Vessel Arrest, Interlocutory Sale And for Money Damage
2	for Trespass By Vessel, Breach Of Contract For Necessaries, and Quantum
3	Meruit
4	- Ex Parte Application for Order Authorizing Issuance of a Warrant for Arrest of
5	Defendant Vessel
6	Declaration of Philip E. Weiss In Support of Vessel Arrest
7	- [Proposed] Order Authorizing Arrest of Defendant Vessel Pursuant to
8	Supplemental Admiralty Rule C
9	Application for Appointment of Substitute Custodian and for Authorization for
0	Movement of Defendant Vessel
.1	Declaration of Richard Bartell In Support of Ex Parte Application for Order
2	Appointing Substitute Custodian
.3	[Proposed] Order Appointing Substitute Custodian and Authorizing Movement of
4	Vessel
5	- Warrant for Action In Rem
6	Notice of Unavailability of Plaintiff's Counsel
7	on the interested parties in Case No by placing [_] the original
8	[X] a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:
9	Mr. Kurt Hach
20	19918 Chase Street
21	Canoga Park, CA 91306
22	[_] (BY PERSONAL SERVICE): Personal service accomplished by [_] attorney service or
23	[_], employed by Weiss & Jones.
24	[_] (BY FACSIMILE AS INDICATED ABOVE): I caused the foregoing document(s) to be
25	sent via facsimile transmission to the above addressee(s) at the facsimile numbers indicated above.
26	[X] (BY CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL AS INDICATED ABOVE): As follows: I am "readily
27	familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under
8.	that practice it would be deposited with U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon
	DECLARATION OF SERVICE Page -2- Case No.

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

Document 1

Filed 11/01/2007

SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET



The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	PLAINTIFFS				1/Y CLA	ire mene,	a 1968 Qwe	eħ§Motor Yach		
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	iba HALF MOON AN									
(b) County of Residence		DMV Registration No.CF.8647 ED; & ALL OF HER ENGINES CTAG KIRES CACGES OR LESS CENTRAL SAN DIEGO								
	(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)					LAINTIFF CASES	ONLY)	Æ		
		OTE: IN LANG	CONDEMN	ATION GASES, U	SE THE LOCATI	ION OF THE				
					NVOLVED.	•		8		
C) Attorney's (Firm Name	, Address, and Telephone Number)	(619) 225-888	24	Attorneys (If Known)	1	007		DIA		
Philip E. Weiss, Esq., Weiss & Jones (619) 225-8884 1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106				U/E	N C	097		BLM		
1331 Shelter Island Di	rive, San Diego, CA 92	100								
II. BASIS OF JURISD	OICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)	ITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES					
☐ 1 U.S. Government	7 Faderal Question	3 Federal Question		(For Diversity Cases Only)	rf Def		and One Box i	for Defendant)		
Plaintiff	Citiz	en of This state		Incorporated or P	rincipal Place	O 4 O 4				
			of Business In This State							
2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity	1	Citiz	en of Another State	2 🗇 2	Incorporated and	Principal Place	D 5 D 5		
Defendant ₃	•	of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 5 of Business In Another State						
,	(maitais cinesisin)		Citiz	en or Subject of a	3 🗇 3	Foreign Nation		06 0 6		
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120 Marine 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal In☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpra			520 Other Food & Drug 525 Drug Related Seizure	423 With 28 US	drawai SC 157	☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking			
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	egotiable Instrument Liability 🗖 365 Personal Injury			of Property 21 USC 881			🗖 450 Comm	450 Commerce		
& Enforcement of Judgment	50 Recovery of Overpayment 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability & Enforcement of Judgment Slander 368 Asbestos Persona			630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck PROPERTY RIGHTS 3 820 Copyrights				460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
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☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	371 Truth in Lending		LABOR		SECURITY		ties/Commodities/		
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage		710 Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA	(1395ff) k Lung (923)	Exchan 875 Custon			
☐ 190 Other Contract	Product Liability	☐ 385 Property Damage		720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations		C/DIWW (405(g))	12 USC			
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	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	tute under which you ar	re filing	(Do not cite jurisdictions	al statutes u	nless diversity):	Commercial	Instruments		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON Brief description of ca			sections 31301, et						
	brief description of ea	For vess	el arre	st, interlocutory sale	e and sati	staction of m	naritime lien	S		
VII. REQUESTED IN	☐ CHECK IF THIS	IS A CLASS ACTION	, D	EMAND \$4,389.00 -	+ pre- C	HECK YES only	y if demanded in	n complaint: رُحُونُ		
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

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Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAO #.: 07CV2097

Judge..: M. JAMES LORENZ

Amount.:

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\$350.00 CK

Check#.: BC 1078

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: BARTELL HOTELS V IRENE, ET AL

CIVIL FILING